1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

The German occupation
175 of Estonia had been foreseen in the Treaty of
648 Brest-Litovsk, March 3, 1918, between Russia and Germany; furthermore, the Baltic German nobles had also petitioned Germany to occupy Estonia. Some Estonian leaders escaped abroad and continued to work for recognition of Estonian independence, among them their leader Jaan Tõnisson. In May, 1918, Estonian independence was recognized by Great Britain, France, and Italy.

175 The German occupation authorities ignored
• 721 the declared independence of Estonia and its
[727] Provisional Government and proceeded to drain the country's economic resources. Their plans to include Estonia in a Baltic Duchy, along with Latvia and Prussia, however, did not succeed. After Germany's defeat in 1918, the Estonian Provisional Government openly resumed

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

175 721 operation on November 11, 1918. But now the Red Army of Russia decided that the time was ripe to attack Estonia.

175 721 Estonia's war with Soviet Russia, from November 28, 1918, to January 3, 1920, including the war with the German Landeswehr has been called the War of Liberation. Because the Estonian army had been dispersed and many leaders arrested as a result of the recent occupational policies, the Red Army was able to make great headway at the beginning of the war.

[701] The morale of the Estonians was low at first, but with the return of Colonel Johan Laidoner from Russia and the assistance of the British fleet, hope was revived. On December 23rd, the Provisional Government appointed Laidoner commander-in-chief of the armed forces and Admiral Juhan Pitka commander of the navy.

1: Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

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Soon two captured Russian warships were delivered to the Estonians by the British fleet; a Finnish volunteer regiment, "The Sons of the North," arrived; and volunteer companies from Sweden and Denmark began to appear in Estonia. Now the Estonians changed from a defensive to an offensive war, more and more youths answered the call to battle, and under Majoy-General Tõnisson, Narva and North Estonia were freed. On January 14, 1919, Tartu was liberated. Advancement on the southern front was slower but steady, and on February 24, 1919, the first anniversary of the Estonian Republic, the commander-in-chief was able to announce that the entire Estonian territory was freed of the enemy. To assure their future independence, the Estonians felt compelled to carry the war on into Latvian territory. This offensive was

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

175 721 successfully carried out and on June 5, 1919, the Red Army was driven from northern Latvia.

But in this same month the Estonian troops in Latvia were confronted with a new enemy: General von der Goltz and his Iron Division and "Landeswehr," consisting of Baltic German volunteers. Decisive battles with the Landeswehr were fought on June 20-23 at Võnnu-Romeburg under the command of Major-General R. Põdder. With great enthusiasm the Estonians went against their historic enemy and, after raging battles, they drove the enemy back to the south to Riga.

[527] In commemoration of the victory over the Landeswehr and other victories, June 23rd, was celebrated during the Estonian independence period as Victory Day.

175 728 The war with the Red Army continued outside of Estonian territory until Soviet Russia made

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

668 Estonian nationalists in April, 1944. Some of them were released only shortly before the end of the German occupation.

727 471 Economically Estonia did not fare any better under German occupation than she did under the Soviets. Economic exploitation of the country continued. Only twelve per cent of the nationalized land was given back to the owners and in only a very few cases was private property returned. As a rule, the Germans did not restore ownership of nationalized property.

[437] Food rations for the people were so meager that no one could live without the help of the black market.

721 In the winter of 1943-44 the retreating Germans brought their front close to Estonia again. The great Soviet air raid on Tallinn on the night of March 9th, burned and destroyed much of the

0721 Estonian capital. In that emergency the demoralized German Wehrmacht was no longer able
[643] to defend Estonia. Professor Uluots made the decision then[1] to support the mobilization in Estonia which the Germans had announced, and his proclamation effected the registration of 45,000 men. Although Estonian regiments were poorly equipped, they knew what was at stake; for several months they held the front, making it possible for many thousands of Estonians to escape to the West. After Finland was forced to accept the Soviet armistice on September 4, 1944, the Russians turned all their strength to the Baltic and rolled over it in a few weeks. On September
721 725 22, 1944, Tallinn fell. The Estonian units, formed at the end of the German occupation, were cut off from retreat and the majority of them became again undercover "Forest Brothers."[2] Refugees

[1] [March 9, 1944; see cat. 116, p. 69 -- Analyst]
[2] [See cat. 116, pp. 66-67 -- Analyst]

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725 from Estonia tell that armed resistance continued in Estonia through 1946. In the winter of 1946-47 large-scale "tactial maneuvers" were organized and the forests along Lake Peipus and in Alutaguse, Virumaa, as well as in Pärnumaa and Võrumaa were combed. These operations broke the large-scale resistance of the Forest Brothers.

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177,
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474 The Second Soviet Occupation continued where the first had ended, only the Soviets were now much more self-confident and violent and they had more time. Everything that even slightly resembled the Western economic and cultural systems had to be changed to match the USSR's Estonian agriculture was collectivized with the help of a large-scale mass deportation in March, 1949. Without such measures of terror the Soviets could not break the resistance of the

11: Scheffer O-4, 5 (ca. 1660) 1704

EP4 Lapps
Estonians RG4

It is but ſmall, but very ſtrong, being Fortified after the Modern way, though its chief Strength conſiſts in the Caſtle, which is built upon a Rock. It was built in the Year 1230, by *Waldmar* II. King of *Denmark*, but in 1347 ſold by King *Waldmar* III. to *Goſwin d' Eck*, the then Maſter of the *Livonian* Order of Knights. After the *Muſcovites* had conſiderably encreaſed their Empire by the Conqueſts of the Kingdoms of *Caſan* and *Aſtracan*, and the great Dukedom of *Novagorod Veliki*, they left no Stone unturn'd to extend their Conqueſts on that ſide to the *Baltick*, by making themſelves Maſters of *Livionia*: The City of *Reval* finding themſelves moſt expoſed to their Fury, ſubmitted themſelves 1561 to the Protection of the *Swedes*, and in the Year 1570, and 1577, held out two memorable Sieges againſt the *Muſcovites*, with prodigious loſs on their ſide; ſince which time, purſuant to the ſeveral Treaties of Peace made betwixt the *Swedes* and *Muſcovites* 1591, 1607 and 1617, it has remained in the Poſſeſſion of the firſt. Its Harbour is very convenient, eſpecially for the *Muſcovite* Trade, which made its Traffick very flouriſhing, from the Year 1477 till 1550, whilſt it was under the Juriſdiction of the *Livonian* Knights; it being one of the moſt antient Towns of the *Hanſeatick* Confederacy, and having in concert with the City of *Lubeck*, the direction of the *Northern* College belonging to the *Hanſeatick* Towns, in the once ſo famous City of *Novagorod Veliki*; but their falling off from the ſaid *Hanſeatick* League, at a time when the *Muſcovites* ſoon after became Maſters of *Narva*, and planted the *Muſcovite* Trade there, did much abate their Trade. Add to this, that the Government of the City being near the Democratical, their Magiſtrates being not allowed to tranſact any thing of Moment without the Approbation of the Leading Men of the City, and ſometimes not without the Conſent of all the Free-men in general, the *Swediſh* Kings looking upon this as dangerous to their Government, have found means to diminiſh many of their Priviledges granted them in former times by the *Livonian* Knights. It was antiently a Biſhops See, but ſince *Lutheraniſm* has been Introduced, the Eccleſiaſtical Government is Adminiſtred by a Conſiſtory and Superintendant. Here is alſo a Gymnaſium provided with ſeveral